The Southern PATRIOT

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Indict 6 Who Defied Realtors

The "Dream House" a Negro couple purchased in Louisville last May has become a nightmare to the conscience of the South.

Because Mr. and Mrs. Andrew E. Wade IV chose a home in a "white" neighborhood they and the white couple who helped them obtain it—Mr. and Mrs. Carl Braden—were subjected to threats by hoodlums, litigation by the mortgage company, and petty arrest by county police. On June 27 the home was dynamited and heavily damaged. (See SP for June, Sept., Oct.)

As inexcusable as these events were, last month the county prosecutor introduced an even grosser form of harassment. Before a grand jury convened to investigate the Wade bombing Commonwealth Attorney A. Scott Hamilton offered the theory that it was a Communist plot to foment racial discord.

He proceeded to question the Wades, the Bradens, and other members of the Wade Defense Committee as to their political beliefs: "Are you now or have you

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3 States Pass Racist Measures

November's elections in the Deep South states gave approval to three avowedly racist measures and returned an arch-Dixiecrat to public office.

Gov. Talmadge's "private school" amendment received a 20,000-plus majority in Georgia, with rural votes providing the edge. More than 400,000 votes were cast. Gov.-Elect Marvin Griffin campaigned for the measure with unsubtle threats to close the schools and fire teachers without pay or retirement benefits if the amendment failed and the courts ordered Georgia schools mixed. The opposition was led by State Supt. of Schools M. D. Collins and included many religious and civic groups.

By a 4 to 1 margin in a scanty turnout of fewer than 30,000 voters, Mississippi adopted a reading-and-writing restriction on voting registration. Previously, an applicant needed only to understand the state constitution when it was read to him. The new law requires him to be able to read and to write an inter-

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—Photo by Riviera

Institute, W. Va.—West Virginia State College football players for the 1954 season. Reading from left to right: David Collins, freshman, Back, Nitro, W. Va.; James Boone, senior, End, Petersburg, Virginia; Jack Caldwell, freshman, Guard, Nitro, W. Va.; Moreno Miller, Senior, Guard, Fairmont, W. Va., and Coach Mark Cardwell.

The West Virginia Story

West Virginia proceeded toward desegregation of its public schools shortly after the Supreme Court decision. The difficulties experienced in some sectors gained wide publicity. We are here privileged to publish reports on the change by two of the state's leading educators, both members of the board of the SCEF. Dr. William J. L. Wallace, president of West Virginia State College, tells of the acceptance of white students into what had previously been an all-Negro institution. Dr. James L. Hupp, of West Virginia Wesleyan College, views the general scene. Dr. Hupp was elected president of the West Virginia Historical Society last month.

By Dr. William J. L. Wallace

On June 9, 1954, the West Virginia Board of Education approved the following resolution:

> "In conformity with the recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the non-segregation cases, and in conformity with the subsequent written opinion of the Attorney General of West Virginia with respect to non-segregation in West Virginia's institutions of higher learning, any qualified student may be admitted to any state college under the jurisdiction of the West Virginia Board of Education."

This action came too late to affect the summer session at West Virginia State College to any great extent. However, three white students did enroll in summer session courses. During the summer many inquiries were received by officials at West Virginia State College relative to the admittance of white students. These questions related to curricula offered, to attitudes of Negro students toward the admittance of white students and to accreditation of the college. As a result of these inquiries and the respect which West Virginia State College has earned among the citizens of the Charleston community, 182 white students had enrolled as of September 30. Of these, 71 were attending day classes and 111 evening classes. The 71 white students attending day classes are for the most part full-time students participating in all of the activities required of full-time students. These students

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Will Louisville Be A 'Little Spain' for South

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ever been . . ." "Have you ever read a copy of the Daily Worker?" Etc.

The Courier-Journal and the Louisville Times both sharply criticized the line Hamilton took, urging him to start investigating and stop playing "junior-league McCarthy." But on October 1 the grand jury returned indictments against the Bradens, a 79-year-old retired river-boat captain, two women social workers, and a truck driver—all of them white persons—on charges of "teaching, advocating or suggesting the doctrine of criminal syndicalism or sedition, or change of the government of the U.S. or Commonwealth of Kentucky . . . by force or violence."

The state law authorizing such charges was passed in 1920 and had never before been invoked. It provides a maximum penalty of $10,000 fine and 21 years in prison.

Part of the "evidence" against the accused six had been gained in police raids of their homes, where literature described as "Communistic" was seized—including books that were the property of the Louisville public library.

A separate indictment charged Vernon Brown, the truck driver, who was at the Wade house the night of the explosion, with setting the blast.

On November 4 the grand jury tidied up its work by indicting the five others for "conspiring" to blow up the house.

Trial on the sedition charge is set for Nov. 28.

Carl and Anne Braden, whose transfer of deed to the Wades began this sequence, have been active in the fight against Jim Crow for many years. Carl is a native of Louisville and a copy reader on the Courier Journal.

His wife Anne is a native of Alabama and a former newspaper reporter.

At this writing, Brown and the retired ship captain, I. O. Ford, are still in jail, unable to raise $20,000 bond apiece. (Ford was indicted on two counts of "sedition," for some reason not clear.) Bond for the new charges has not been set. Carl Braden spent more than three weeks in jail before being bonded out on the sedition count, during which time he was denied any access to newspapers and books because, as a jailer said, "Hamilton is afraid he might work up a story on him."

When the sedition indictments were returned the Courier-Journal deplored their vagueness and declared the action "must cause any thoughtful citizen to pause." Unfortunately, the effect of the grand jury charges has been to create a fear of intervention by organizations which should be acutely aware of how their interests are threatened. Only the American Civil Liberties Union representative, Attorney Louis Lusky, has entered an amicus curiae brief in the case.

Manifestly, these persecuted members of the Wade Defense Committee need and deserve all possible moral and financial assistance from decent people everywhere in the nation. The cause for which they are fighting—integrated housing—is a just and legal ideal of primary importance to America's future. Furthermore, the successful pillorying of these brave people on irrelevant grounds will give precedent for action by desperate racists the region over. For could not the attempt to get school integration or any sort of racial integration in other Southern states be distorted into a threat to "overthrow the government"? Notice, too, that neither Wade nor any other Negro was charged with the bombing. Thus the indictments uphold the sordid myth that Negroes who claim their rights are not "responsible," but are "stirred up" by "agitators"; thus a wall of fear is erected to thwart interracial amity and endeavor.

Contributions toward the legal costs of the defendants may be sent to Mrs. Maeme Brock, Treas. Wade Defense Committee, 2502 Madison St., Louisville, Ky.

Voter Apathy Aided Racists; Ala. Bigot Squelched

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pretation of the constitution in a manner satisfactory to the registrar.

Louisiana voters gave a similarly heavy majority to an amendment which put segregated schools under the aegis of "state police power." This device is a lame attempt to evade the 14th Amendment and was flatly declared "unconstitutional" by the New Orleans Bureau of Governmental Research.

In South Carolina Strom Thurmond, Dixiecrat candidate for President in 1948, scored an unprecedented write-in victory for a seat in the U.S. Senate. His race had the full blessings of Gov. Byrnes.

But these triumphs for the proponents of segregation should be considered in the light of (1) the traditional lack of interest in general elections in the one-party South; (2) the lack of "bread-and-butter" angles in the Mississippi and Louisiana amendments and the South Carolina race.

In Georgia the amendment had a drastic, easily visualized intent and the vote was large and close. Several counties approved home-rule riders to the amendment which will give local authorities final say before their school systems are destroyed to preserve racial segregation.

In Mississippi a decision to tighten voting requirements caused slight alarm among voters who, after all, were already on the books. But a decision to abolish the public schools is a more serious affair—and opposition to such an amendment, up for vote in December, is mounting.

At a meeting of the Mississippi school administrators in Jackson support was reportedly given the amendment, but a record vote was not taken and observers said the margin in favor could not have been better than 3-to-2. An organization called Friends of a Segregated School System, led by a former president of the Mississippi Education Assn. and several state legislators, plans to stump the state in opposition to the measure.

Furthermore, the results in these four states should be considered in relation to neighboring states.

In Alabama the Republican Party made a cold-blooded attempt to exploit resentment at the Supreme Court decision by resurrecting a former Democratic state committeeman and Dixiecat as its standard bearer in the gubernatorial election.

GOP target was the Democratic nominee James Folsom, who had withstood racist smears in the primary. Tom Abernathy, the Republican, campaigned all over the state, advertised extensively, enjoyed ample and sympathetic coverage in the press—and harped on the segregation theme. All for nought.

Folsom carried every county in the state, including the proverbial GOP stronghold of Winston County in racking up a 3 to 1 majority. His lone comment on the racial issue had been that he would not "force Negro children to attend white schools."

News Service Launched

A monthly tabloid, the Southern School News, began publication in September with a substantial grant from the Ford Foundation. With correspondents in all sections of the South, its purpose is to report developments in interracial matters.

The service is distributed free of charge to all persons who request it and we urge our readership to ask to be placed on the mailing list. The editorial offices are Box 6156 Acklen Station, Nashville, Tenn.

Such a project could be very valuable. It is the sort of thing the Patriot tries to do with a shoestring and a handful of loyal volunteers.

LETTERS

The following represent a further sampling of reader response to the SCEF policy statement. Other communications were published in the previous issue.

... I am not convinced that if a group of snobs build, themselves, and support, themselves, a school for their children they should be forced to take in the children of those who have no part in this support. I would not have such schools receive public money, however, any more than I would publicly support Roman Catholic or any other special group schools . . .

The snobs will gradually conform with the law if not gratuitously pushed too hard. Their love of money will save them on that point.

IDA SITTLER
Lehighton, Pa.

* * *

It has long been my platform, and I believe the Supreme Court was encouraged to reach its recent historic decision by the amount of support already to be found in the South for that ideal.

IRWIN R. BEILER
Meadville, Pa.

* * *

Why not give some recognition to the importance of family education and parent education. That is the source of so much of your prejudice.

LESTER H. KIRKENDALL
Corvallis, Ore.

Dubious Victory In Delaware; Firmness, Vision Pay in Baltimore

The troubled Milford, Delaware, scene has quieted, and the promoter of the protest campaign is discredited—but the ten Negro children who were the objects of so much hate are not in the school of their choice.

Bryant W. Bowles, president of the "National Assn. for the Advancement of White People," faces loss of the charter of his organization under charges brought by Delaware Attorney General H. Albert Young. He has been indicted on two counts of conspiracy, and in Washington, D. C., is charged with assaulting a Negro postman.

Research into his past disclosed that Bowles was arrested and fined in Baltimore in 1953 on five counts of imposture. At the time of these arrests he was wanted in Tampa, Fla., in connection with bogus checks and is currently in demand for the same offense in Memphis. At one of the NAAWP meetings his fellow Floridian, Sheriff Willis V. McCall, notorious for his role in the Groveland killings, was a speaker. The NAAWP newsletter referred to the "Jew-led NAACP" in terms that indicated its kinship with "old-line" anti-semitic hate groups.

However, the Delaware Supreme Court set aside a temporary injunction which would have returned the Negro children to Milford High, pending hearing Dec. 13 on their suit against the Milford School Board.

The board, replacing former members who earlier initiated integration, dismissed them from the high school on Sept. 30. Vice Chancellor William Marvel issued the injunction after they brought suit for readmission.

In all probability the children will win their case, and Herr Bowles won't be around to vex them further. But it is a distressing thing that such a cold-blooded operator (admittedly working on a $5,200 salary, plus $10 a day expenses, plus unlimited access to a "Bucks for Bowles" fund) could catapult himself into national prominence, and cause lengthy deliberation by state officials from the Governor down.

The Wilmington Branch of the NAACP placed the blame for the protracted confusion on "the lack of a stated policy by the State Board of Education and the lack of enforcement of the law by agencies of the State whose duty it is to do so." The State Board had set up "ground rules" for integration which chiefly consisted of giving local boards permission to do what they wanted to about admitting Negroes. When the first Milford Board came under fire, the State Board gave it only hedging support, complaining that it had not got prior permission while admitting that denial of entrance to Negro students would be illegal.

* * *

The Bowles Bund also fished for trouble in Baltimore, where 40 of the city's 172 schools have been integrated and Negro students make up one-third of the total enrollment of 141,000. But here a nine-day flareup affecting 25 schools was firmly squelched by "a progressive school board and an unyielding police force," to quote the Pittsburgh *Courier*.

Baltimore has no districting requirements, and students may enroll anywhere they choose. White and Negro teachers have been holding professional meetings together for almost a decade, and now several faculties are interracial. At one school, Polytechnic High for boys, integration began two years ago.

When, 25 days after the start of school, the NAAWP made its assault against this firm foundation of democracy, a police threat to arrest all pickets and a judge's refusal to restore segregation were sufficient to send the racists packing.

* * *

The Fellowship House of Knoxville is sponsoring a series of discussions "to consider how Knoxville can best prepare itself and its children for desegregation in our public schools."

Speakers include educators, P.T.A. representatives, church leaders, and others on topics ranging from the background of the Supreme Court decision to "What has been done in Knoxville?"

Other Southern cities, please copy.

* * *

The third anniversary of integration was celebrated quietly last month at Amarillo College—just as quietly as it began.

This two-year institution is part of the public-school system of the Texas city with the same name. The school board there sensibly decided that erecting duplicate facilities would be too expensive and adopted the open-door policy. The only restriction was the limitation of enrollment to Negroes residing in the school district.